

Message Text

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70/50

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

NEA-11 AF-10 AEC-11 AECE-00 SCI-06 CIEP-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SAM-01 L-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 SR-02 ORM-03 H-03 SCA-01 INT-08 FEA-02

COME-00 DRC-01 /195 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9792

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 0664

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - P A R A F I V E

SSTATE ALSO FOR T/IPE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, XF

SUBJECT: EC PROPOSALS ON COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH OIL
PRODUCERS

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REF: STATE 19514

1. SUMMARY: BELGIAN FONMIN OFFICIALS EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF US VIEWS ON EC-ARAB COOPERATION PROPOSALS (REFTEL) BUT ARE CONCERNED THAT US DEMARCHE WILL BE CONTRUED BY FRENCH AS INTERFERENCE IN EC AFFAIRS. WHILE BELGIANS FAVOR INFORMING USG OF PROPOSALS AT EARLY DATE, THEY DO NOT EXPECT EC AGREEMENT ON PROPOSALS BEFORE ENERGY CONFERENCE. THEY ALSO FAVOR ABSORBING EC COMMISSION PROPOSAL ON COOPERATION WITH OIL PRODUCERS INTO BROADER PROGRAM OF COOPERATION WITH ALL ARAB STATES. AID TO PALESTINIANS IS BEING GIVEN LOW PRIORITY BY ME EXPERTS. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HAVE PRESENTED POSITION OUTLINED IN REFTEL ON EC PROPOSALS ON COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH OIL PRODUCERS BOTH TO THYSBAERT, IN FOREIGN MINISTER'S CABINET, AND TO DAPASSE, IN CHARGE OF MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS IN THE POLITICAL DIRECTORATE (AND BELGIAN REPRESENTATIVE IN EXPERTS GROUP).

3. BOTH THYSBAERT AND DAPASSE POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE THREE SEPARATE ELEMENTS OF THE EC APPROACH TO OIL PRODUCERS: FIRST, THE ON-GOING MEDITERRANEAN POLICY WHICH MAKES SLOW PROGRESS; SECONDLY, WHAT THEY CALLED THE FRENCH PROPOSAL ON COOPERATION WITH ALL ARAB STATES WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED BY THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS; AND THIRDLY, THE COMMUNITY PROPOSAL ON COOPERATION WITH OIL PRODUCERS ONLY. THYSBAERT SUGGESTED THAT IN THE END THE COMMISSION EXERCISE WOULD FALL BY THE WAYSIDE. DAPASSE CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD SEEK TO HAVE THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL ABSORBED INTO THE PROGRAM OF COOPERATION WITH ALL ARABS DURING THE COURSE OF THE POLITICAL CONSULTATION PROCESS. ME EXPERTS HAVE ALREADY INDICATED THEIR DESIRE THAT "DIALOGUE" ENVISAGED IN COMMISSION'S PAPER BE EXTENDED TO ALL ARAB STATES.

4. THYSBAERT SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE CONCERNS OF WASHINGTON. HE FEARED, HOWEVER, THAT OUR DEMARCHE WOULD BE INTERPRETED BY THE FRENCH AS ANOTHER EFFORT TO INTERFERE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND WOULD MAKE THE WORK OF OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS HARDER. IN RESPONSE, WE STRESSED THAT PART OF OUR INSTRUCTIONS TO THE EFFECT THAT WE HAVE TAKEN NO POSITION ON THE COMMUNITY

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AND EC-9 DELIBERATIONS AND THAT WE INDEED SAW THE POTENTIAL FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE EUROPEAN INITIATIVE.

5. THYSBAERT SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN HOPES THE EC-9 WOULD HAVE REACHED AT LEAST AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON A PAPER IN TIME FOR THE FEBRUARY 11 ENERGY CONFERENCE. THIS NOW SEEMED HIGHLY UNLIKELY UNLESS THE COUNCIL FOUND SOME WAY TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION AT ITS FEBRUARY 4 - 5 MEETING (WHICH HE DID NOT

THINK WOULD HAPPEN). ANOTHER REMOTE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE THAT
THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS AT THE FEBRUARY 6-7 MEETING WOULD
REACH AN
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